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VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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Friday, January 31, 1997

ASU President Resigns

- **An epidemic of personal difficulties plague the Associated Student Union Executive Committee**

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A rash of resignations by the officers of the student government has spread like a virus through the ASU, topped by the resignation of ASU President Grabriel Ruiz last week.

Ruiz resigned at the ASU Executive Committee meeting Jan. 21. Patricia Tejeda, formerly vice president, has taken the position as president.

Ruiz did not meet the required qualifications for the ASU presidential office. "Gabriel did not complete enough units last semester," Associate Dean of Student Affairs John Barnhart said.

Representatives for the ASU office gave "personal reasons" as the reason for Ruiz's resignation.

"The president resigned for a variety of reasons, one being the personal reason that he had a job expansion and couldn't have had time to serve anyway," Barnhart said.

Tejeda said that regardless of other personal matters, Ruiz could not have remained in the office because he did not fulfill the unit requirements for the office. A minimum of nine units were required.

The Executive Committee of the ASU consists of the president, vice president, chief justice, secretary, treasurer and eight commissioners, all of which make up the student council officers for the Valley College student body.

According to the ASU Constitution, the vice president moves up to the office of president and a new vice president is selected by the Executive Committee in the event the president resigns.

In addition to the presidential resignation, five elected officers and two appointed officers, secretary and treasurer, have also resigned.

"Old commissioners did not leave because of Ruiz leaving, they just didn't have time in their schedules for ASU," Robert Tabrizi, the new vice president, said. "We don't get paid. We're here to help the school."

Tabrizi, who is chairman of the Inter-Club Council, was selected by the current officers to serve as vice president. Tabrizi will act as both vice president of the Executive Committee of ASU and chairman of the Inter-Club Council.

Barnhart announced at the Jan. 21 meeting that Commissioner of Fine Arts Karla Moran had stepped down via a letter of resignation. "It is my understanding that Karla Moran is working a great deal during the day and had to resign," Barnhart said.

Commissioner of Cultural and Ethnic Affairs Daniel Matas also resigned at the Jan. 21 meeting, by verbal announcement. Secretary Christina Salas and Treasurer Jouse Kui have also resigned.

"It is not that uncommon. There's been a considerable amount of rotation," Barnhart said. "People do work and it becomes somewhat of a time constraint." Barnhart has been advisor for the student council for four semesters.

Normally, all of the officers are elected by the student body, with the exception of the secretary and treasurer, which are paid positions appointed by the ASU president and determined by interview.

At this time, none of the current officers were elected by the student body for their office.

Tejeda is the only remaining officer who was elected by the student body at all, and she was elected as vice president, not president. All other current officers have been either appointed by Tejeda or selected by the other officers themselves.

"Just because they were not

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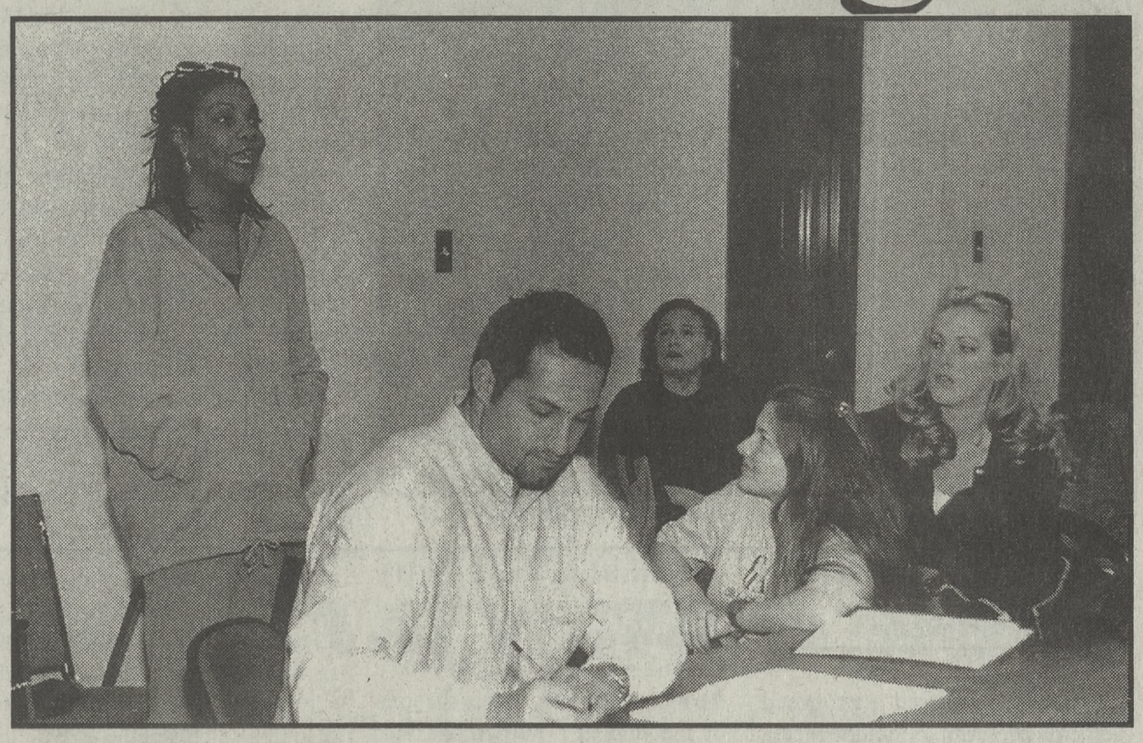


Commissioner of Cultural and Ethnic Affairs applicant Wilma Monroe speaks before the ASU Executive Committee Tuesday as they select officers to fill vacant positions.

Photos by Maria Ivey/Valley Star

Erin Walters, Commissioner of Social and Academic Affairs, takes a stance on ASU issues at Tuesday's meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Student Assistance Center and the Office of Financial Aid will conduct free workshops to assist students in filling out 1997-98 financial aid forms. Sign up in advance at the Student Assistance Center, located on the south side of the cafeteria. The next workshop is scheduled for Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.

Scholarship applications for Jewish college students are available until March 1. Applicants must be pursuing a post-high school education, have financial need and be permanent legal residents of Los Angeles County. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required and scholarships are not available to college freshmen. Deadline for submitting applications is April 15. Contact Sharon Zeiden at (213) 653-2858.

Applications for the Kaiser Permanente Allied Health Care Scholarship Program are on file in CC100A. Priority will be given to laboratory, medical imaging, occupational therapy, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, respiratory care and social work.

Student Health Clinic Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. A physician is available every Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Counseling is available every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Avoid Math 115 by examination. Get 15 out of 30 correct on the math competency exam and meet the math requirement for an AA degree. The next exam is scheduled to take place in Administration Room 126 Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Students that have a GPA of 3.2 or higher and have at least 12 graded units from last semester or have 18 units overall, are eligible for membership in Tau Alpha Epsilon, the scholastic honor society of Valley College. Visit CC100A for more information.

College Council Says Changes In LAVC's Future

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

Valley College President Tyree Wieder told the College Council at Tuesday's meeting a consultant to the college has recommended bringing in fast-food vendors like Burger King.

The council, which met to discuss new school business and committee action items, addressed recommendations made by the Fessel Corporation which was hired to assess the food service at Valley College.

"Our cafeteria is a heart attack waiting to happen ," ASU representative Robert Tabrizi said, echoing the sentiments of students and faculty alike.

Fessel had recommended branching out service to contractors and saw a need to invest a substantial amount, $3-400,000, in upgrading facilities. The Fessel parties who would help fund changes for a percentage of profit, and who are willing to hire existing employees to retrain for their needs, Wieder said.

"What guarantee do we have they [the food service subcontractors] would do the work," College Council member Marty Hittleman said. "Sometimes companies back out if they find the expected profits are not there."

Committee Chairwoman Pat Allen voiced her concerns on the options mentioned. "I think sometimes we brand out to the lowest common denominator, "Allen said. "Bringing names like Burger King one on campus. We could brand out to something better."

In other council action, Dean of Students Yasmin Delahoussaye said the history of poor student attendance at previous school graduation ceremonies proved there was a need for incentives to induce students to attend the festivities. With approximately 600 students graduating every year, no more than 350 are expected to attend and Delahoussaye suggested some changes were needed to increase interest.

A proposal by Delahoussaye to state a graduate's choice of their was read at graduation was panned by Wieder.

"I don't agree," Wieder said. "This gives the idea that those students transferring are somehow higher in stature. We want these students to feel pride in their accomplishment."

Shannon Stack of Instructional Programs agreed with Wieder and said, "It seems more equal for all to say what they are graduating in and their name and degree."

Delahoussaye also suggested waiving the photo fee for graduates, costing Valley a small amount, about $1,700 by last year's graduation numbers. The proposal, along with other suggested incentives, was referred back to the Students Service Committee.

"We think the college semester is off to a pretty fair start," Vice President Susan Carleo said. "We are at about 101 percent of projections with a head count of 15,434 as of Jan. 28."

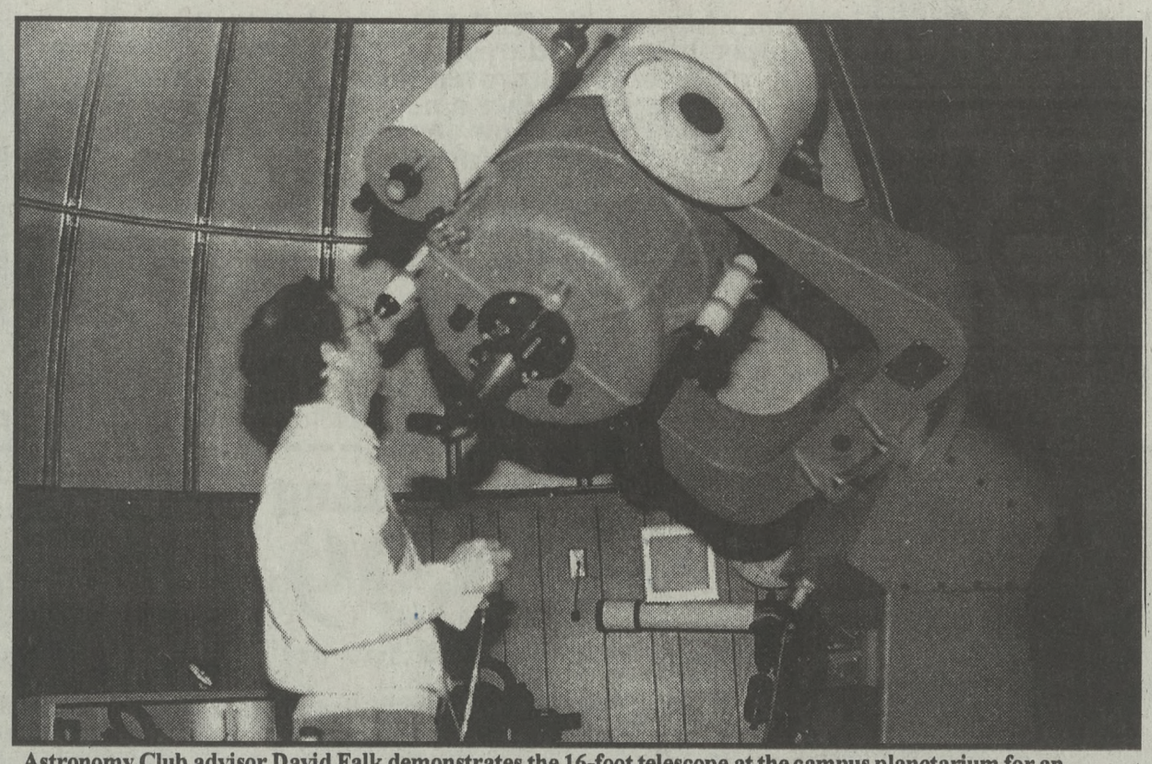
See Council Page 2

POLICE WATCH

Three automobiles have been burglarized in campus parking lots since Jan. 16. The first occurred Jan. 16 in parking lot A. The second occurred Jan. 27 in lot E, and the third occurred Jan. 28. Campus police said that the burglaries were possibly related. A screwdriver was used to enter all three vehicles.

Two automobiles have been stolen from campus parking lots. A Toyota was stolen from parking lot A Jan. 27, and a 1986 Honda CRX was stolen from lot G Jan. 28.

Police Watch information is provided by Campus Police.



Alice Garabedian/Valley Star

Astronomy Club advisor David Falk demonstrates the 16-foot telescope at the campus planetarium for an evening under the stars.

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Earn While You Learn

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
STAR REPORTER

Working students who wish to earn college credits while making money need to look no further. Cooperative education helps students earn college units on the job.

Co-op exists in only five of the nine Los Angeles Community Colleges, including Valley College. Co-op works with students' employers, finding new ways to improve employees.

Any student who works either full or part time and is taking at least three units at Valley College may sign up. The job does not have to be related to one's major. Anyone with a job is qualified. Students in intern, apprentice and volunteer positions also qualify.

New co-op students are required to attend two seminars during the semester. The seminars take place on different days and the students choose which day to attend.

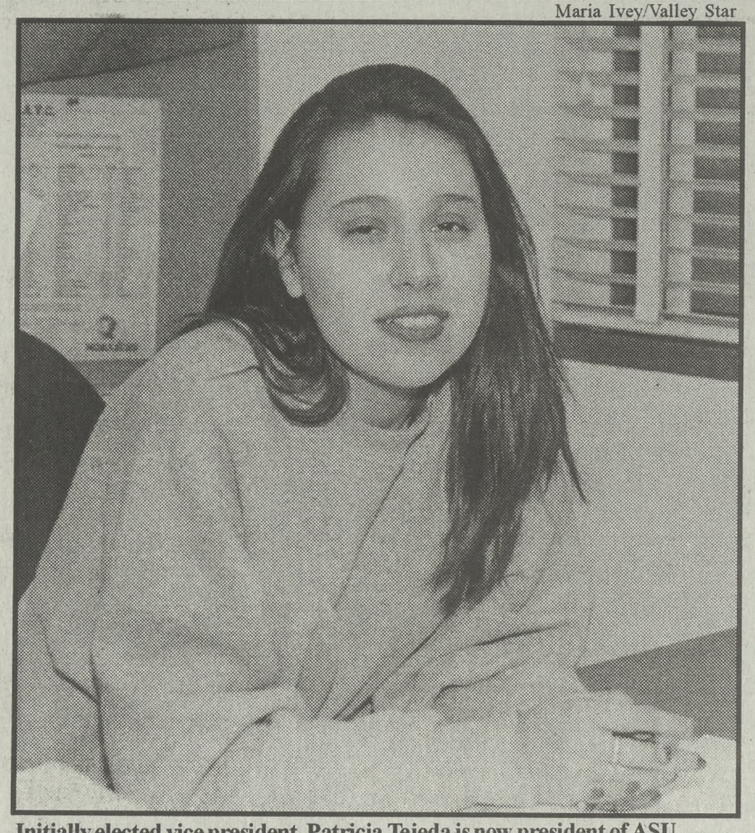
Along with their supervisors, students come up with three objectives which will help make their job more interesting.

Students whose job is related to their major may earn up to four units per semester, depending on how many hours they work. A total of 16 units may be earned in four semesters.

Students whose job is not related to their major may earn three units and a total of six units may be received in two semesters. Eight of those units are CSU trans-

See Co-op Page 2

Maria Ivey/Valley Star



Initially elected vice president, Patricia Tejeda is now president of ASU.

Officer Resignations Plague ASU

Continued from Page 1

elected by the student body doesn't mean that they can't still work with the student body," Tejeda said.

The officers represent the entire student body of over 15,000 people on various college committees and official gatherings where college issues and student concerns are discussed.

The Executive Committee of ASU student council officers have no formal way of determining student viewpoints on issues or problems. Representation is determined by the collective opinion of the Executive Committee.

The elections take place in the Spring for a one-year term that begins June 1 of each year. Each officer may serve up to four semesters. Special selections such as those taking place this month will expire with the next election in April. Those officers must run for election and win to remain in their office.

"I think some of the problem is that students must maintain a specific unit load," Barnhart said. "They find the job more time consuming than they anticipated."

Every candidate has the opportunity to review the job description, Barnhart explained. "Sometimes they don't find out until they get involved in it, how much time it takes," he said.

Barnhart said that Pierce College has multiple times the ASU funding and only four commissioners. Valley had 21 commissioners until the ASU Constitution was revised last year, reducing the number of commissioners to eight.

The next ASU election will take place April 9-10. Any enrolled student may legally vote.

A skeleton Executive Committee met Tuesday in efforts to fill vacant offices. Two Valley College students were present to seek the five remaining positions open at the time the meeting began.

Wilma Monroe, formally of the Black Student Union, was selected in an open forum during the meeting to fill the office of Commissioner of Cultural and Ethnic Affairs. The other student, Isaac Cuevas, was selected to fill the office of treasurer.

Madlene Minassian, former president of the Armenian Student Association, served in the meeting as the newly appointed secretary and Tabrizi formally accepted his position as vice president.

There are three positions still open: Commissioner of Fine Arts; Commissioner of Environmental Issues; and, Chief Justice.

During Tuesday's meeting, Tejeda said she had no report for old or new business. A variety of issues were thoroughly discussed by other officers to determine a stance the ASU will take.

The Executive Committee made no definite plans of action on any issues, with the exception, however, of a private brunch for the officers of the Executive Committee set for Feb. 9.

Council Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Carleo discussed a proposed cinema program to include media arts, music, drama and cinema in a media presentation. "We need to call the chairs together to make some decisions," Carleo said.

However, Dean of Academic Affairs Frank Sinsheimer said, "The concept of media arts is half the campus. I don't think anyone has thought about making them one department."

Marty Hittleman addressed budget concerns. "The bottom line is, we are a million or so in the red," Hittleman said. "But that's not unusual at this time of the year."

Hittleman said the budget simply cannot account for certain expenditures, such as the utilities bill which is forecasted at $30,000 and expected to exceed that total by a large margin.

"The reason is we didn't have the money to apply to it at the time of the budget, "Hittleman said. "When we receive projected moneys [grants] in the summer we hope to apply it to the deficit. We're not talking about an insurmountable problem, although at some point we have to cut back."

Hittleman touched on the lack of funding to help with students on AFDC. "In fact, 125,000 students receive AFDC, 1,500 on this campus, and there's no funding for it," Hittleman said. "Up to now, we haven't been able to offer them any services."

Hittleman said that the state government has proposed each campus hire a new person for job search studies to determine employer needs and help in curriculum direction. "Studies have shown an average AFDC recipient has an eighth grade education level. Clearly it will take an awful lot to get them to college level."

In other College Council news, the appointment of a new faculty member hired to work on adult education and Pace programs was announced, Sandy Mayo. Carleo said she has taught in the Pace program before and will start coming to groups on campus shortly. Her office is in CC216.

The college district has also set up a meeting Feb. 6 at Mission College to discuss planning for the future of the "Welfare to Work" program, Wieder said. The program is another of many the district is instituting to increase marketability of students in the work force.

Student Trustee Applications

By LINDA E. THOMAS
and LIZ BARRETT
STAR REPORTERS

Applications for Student Trustee of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees are now being accepted in CC100 until Feb. 27.

The Student Trustee is a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees for the nine community colleges in the district. The Student Trustee is, however, allowed to bring motions before the Board regarding student concerns.

There will be a district-wide election in April for the position and any actively enrolled community college student may vote.

"The candidates will have an opportunity to visit each campus and present their position in an open forum," Associate Dean of Student Services John Barnhart said.

In accordance with Trustee Board Rules adopted Jan. '96, candidates must be currently enrolled and in good standing in one or more colleges in the district, be enrolled in a minimum of nine units for day students and six units for day/evening combination and have completed a minimum of 12 units and maximum of 60 units within the district.

The elected Student Trustee will represent the approximate 100,000 students in the district to the Board of Trustees concerning student issues.

Co-op Offered

Continued from Page 1

ferable. For other four-year colleges or universities, the amount of units accepted varies.

"It's a win-win-win deal," Co-op Director Judith Trester said. "Students are happy since they enhance their work skills, earn extra credits and receive money as they learn. The employer has a more productive employee. They save money since they don't have to train their employees. The college also wins by helping the students, businesses and industry to achieve goals."

Attendance this year has increased 20 percent from last year.

Students who wish to join Co-op can call (818) 781-1200 ext. 272 or go to Bungalow 48. The last day to apply is March 5.

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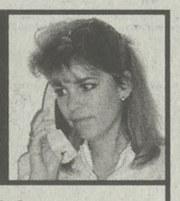

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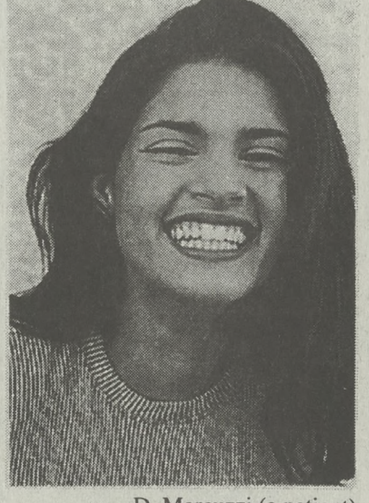
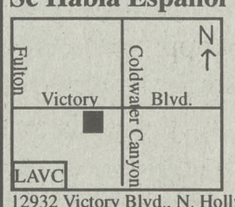


D. Marcuzzi (a patient)

Se Habla Español



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If I Wanted Your Opinion ...

By LEO SMITH
STAR REPORTER

It's 1997 and apparently a few people forgot to resolve not to kill anybody this year.

A few days ago, within hours of one another, two young lives were violently snuffed out, leaving a nation to wonder just how far have we truly come or just how close are we to the abyss.

I am, of course, talking about the murders of Corrie Williams and Ennis Cosby, two separate crimes that may have gone unnoticed if one of the victims had not been fathered by TV's Cliff Huxtable.

However, I do not wish to rant about the disparity in the media's coverage of celebrity versus commoner. I want to talk about those A-holes that killed these kids.

With leads pouring in from everywhere and the police leaving no bush unbeaten, it is only a matter of time before someone's ass is in the proverbial sling. It now seems especially relevant to revisit the issue of capitol punishment and its place in America.

I am a firm believer in the death penalty, and my position is reaffirmed on a daily basis. Of course, there are those poor foolish souls that find the practice to be barbaric. These folks stake a claim to the moral high ground of enlightenment atop of which they accuse the huddled masses below of being knee-jerk reactionary Neanderthals, i.e., me.

To paraphrase their position, they believe it is best to err on the side of acquittal, and that by executing someone, we as a society are no better than a murderer.

Frankly, that is trite, cliched rhetoric employed by marginal, idealistic nitwits.

Everyone is capable of extreme violence against our fellow man, and it is a sad commentary on our society that such examples are commonplace.

However, a greater travesty is committed when such violence is not met in kind by the State.

Punishment is a primordial conditioning tool that acclimates us to the rigors of living and thriving within society.

That we do not punish and make examples of the guilty is a major reason that their crimes are so often repeated. Murder is not preventable, it has and will always happen, however.

We can prevent a great many of them by scarring impressionable minds with scenes of such unimaginable suffering met out on the guilty that the mere thought of repeating such a crime would be the ultimate manifestation of sado-masochism.

This is all terribly Pavlovian, but don't kid yourself, we share 70 percent of our DNA wit dogs. Woof.

So, what should become of the killers of Corrie and Ennis? Suffice to say, the punishment should be nakedly public, cruelly humiliating and slowly fatal.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I thought I would never write this, at least I never would submit this letter at all. But, I have had enough.

There are many well-educated teachers here at LAVC, and many of these teachers have great positive attitudes about teaching. Also, I think there are many teachers that should be recognized.

We never hear about recognition being given to the teachers whom have been working and teaching hard to achieve many rewards, degrees or accomplishments.

What can we do? Who can we motivate?

Two teachers have touched my life because they care about their students, and they taught me how to use what I have learned in class in the real world.

Gale Nestagia in Broadcasting and Nancy Webb in Child Development are two fantastic college teachers that need to be publicly recognized.

Nancy and Gail are two smart and friendly teachers who care about their students and the subjects they teach.

Let's recognize our teachers. Let's compliment them when they have one coming.

Darren Goodman,
Valley College Student

Suicide Does Not a Hero Make

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

I just don't understand it. How can a person hear about another person killing themselves and then try and make that person a hero. It's been happening quite often lately and it's ludicrous.

The first case that comes to mind is that of Kurt Cobain, former lead singer of the band Nirvana. This man shot himself in the head because he couldn't deal with the few problems that he had.

There are only a few problems that a person with the kind of money Cobain made could have. He didn't have the same problems as the average Joe: trying to figure out where he's going to get the money to pay the rent or how he's going to keep the kids' bellies full.

Whatever the problems were, there is always a way to solve the problem besides killing yourself. Suicide is the cowards' way out, because he doesn't consider the other people that it's going to affect.

Cobain had a beautiful little girl that is never going to know what it's like to feel the love of her father, or the comfort that a father gives to his child the first time that child gets sick or injured.

There is now a little child in this world who's only guidance is going to be Courtney Love. I don't even need to go into that subject.

River Phoenix indirectly killed himself, but nevertheless killed himself by overdosing on heroine in a popular Hollywood nightclub. The story was talked about for weeks, and a large group of people turned him into a hero.

What about his friends and family? For the rest of their lives they are going to have to deal with the death of this young, and in the opinion of some, talented actor.

Then, most recently of all, was the tribute to Sublime singer Bradley Nowell. Now, if this were to raise money for a charity or a foundation set up in his name that benefitted society, that would be one thing, but to just honor a man who took his own life is disgusting.

These are just a few examples of people who have killed themselves only to become cult legends. The people who have turned these three, and all the others, into heroes are doing nothing but glorifying drugs and suicide. With all the problems that kids are facing in society right now, they don't need to deal with suicide and drugs. Even though some choose to fall into the life of drugs, they don't need to see society glorifying it.

We have to let these people know that because they are famous, they don't have the right to kill themselves. They have to think about the people they're leaving behind, and what it's going to do to them.

So wake up people and don't let this continue.

There's No Resolution

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
STAR REPORTER

With each new year, most of us feel it is the perfect time to start over, forget past mistakes and make room for new ones. So, we make new year resolutions.

What a joke!

This year, I have decided not to make any resolutions. Why should I waste my time making promises to myself if I will not keep them?

I can remember the countless number of times I resolved to lose five pounds; except, it always seems like I managed to gain 10 instead.

I know people who resolved to stop spending money and ended up in worse debt than before.

I had a friend who resolved to quit smoking and years later she is still smoking. The list can go on.

During the year, many people pick up habits which they want to get rid of. It could be smoking, nail-biting, over-eating or drinking alcohol.

During the high stress of a new semester, people can make bad habits become worse.

Starting all new classes, juggling a manic schedule and shovelling out big bucks for books can drive a person insane. Just thinking about it can be stressful.

One can be forced to have that cigarette, take that extra drink or that one extra plateful. People end up feeling guilty and only then is the time when they want to change.

It's wonderful for one to try a new start along with the new year, but the truth must be realized.

A new year means nothing. It's just another day. There is no change.

Whatever the case may be, people will not keep their promise, not unless they are really determined. If people are really determined, they would not wait for the end of the year, they would start changing right then.

Got Questions?

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has the answers

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LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

Comedian Peter Fogel has audience in hysterics at Comedy Nite '97.

Comedy '97: A Nite of Jewish Laughs

By BEN ALTER
STAR REPORTER

It was a night of laughs Saturday when the Valley and Pierce College Jewish club, Hillel, put on Comedy Nite '97.

"The purpose of the show is to help raise funds for Hillel and to inform the Jewish community about the organization," Aielet Rabinovitz, a member of Hillel, said.

Hillel is a worldwide organization that sets out to educate Jewish students about getting along with other sectors of society by educating its members about similarities and differences between different groups in society, according to Hillel literature.

The gathering was a way for the young to learn from the experiences of their elders, and the elders to feel the energy and exuberance of youth.

At the show, two Jewish celebrities were honored with awards for their achievements and involvement in the Jewish community.

Mayim Bialik, the former star of "Blossom," was the first to be honored.

Bialik is also known for her performance in the movie "Beaches," in which she portrayed Bette Midler's character as a youth.

"Beaches came out the same week that I had my Bat Mitzvah," Bialik said. "People kept asking me which experience was more important to me, and I always said the Bat Mitzvah, because Judiasm isn't what I do, it's what I am."

Mayim has been attending UCLA since "Blossom" was cancelled.

Jason Hervey was the other celebrity honored. Hervey has several credits to his name. Among them are "Back to the Future" and the television show, "The Wonder Years," where he portrayed Wayne Arnold, Kevin Arnold's obnoxious older brother. Hervey has since been involved heavily with writing and producing.

"I was honored to receive the award," Hervey said. "I'm not normally given awards for something that is so personal to me. The stuff I do for the Jewish community is part of my responsibility as a Jew."

After the awards were given out, the laughs started. Six professional Jewish comedians from the Los Angeles area donated their time and talents out of the goodness of their hearts to make the audience laugh.

The audience, both young and old, expressed extreme satisfaction with the content of the show.

"I was very happy with the show, it was amusing and educational," Eric Carter, a new member of Hillel, said.

The evening ended with a raffle of gifts donated by businesses from the San Fernando Valley.

An Evening Under the Stars

By ALICE GARABEDIAN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The monthly astronomy show at the campus planetarium Friday gave a lasting new view of the night sky to an audience of mostly Valley College students. The theme for the night was "The Wanderers," the name the Greeks gave "wandering" planets.

Astronomy Club President Colleen Gino gave an energetic and informative presentation, pointing out Orion's position in the sky, the red-eyed Taurus and Betelgeuse, the "armpit" of the Great One.

Gino, a current student at Valley College and a Computer Science major, has been part of the Astronomy Club for six years and president for two years. She first became interested in astronomy by reading books when she was a young girl.

Club advisor David Falk, Gino and other club members sponsor these shows. They personally invest their own money in the shows, as well as write, create, and produce them.

"The purpose of these shows is to get more public interest and it teaches critical thinking," Gino said.

The planetarium is equipped with a 24-foot dome that uses a Spitz A3P projector for viewing slides presented during the show. The planetarium offers seven eight-foot telescopes and a 16-foot telescope on the roof of the building for star viewing.

Although the sky was not too clear that night, the telescope showed some stars and a brief viewing of the moon.

Falk has been the Astronomy Club advisor since 1994 and has worked at LAVC for 20 years.

"It is very rare for a club to be sponsoring shows and providing it to the community such as this one tonight. There is only one other club that I know of in the Southern California region that has a planetarium available and has the responsibility of putting on these shows," Falk said.

The 50-seat room was filled to capacity which included mostly astronomy students. Most of the audience members heard about the show through their astronomy teacher and attended the showing for extra credits.

"It was interesting. I learned a lot of things that I never even thought about before," Valley astronomy student Nora Escobar said.

"I heard about it through my astronomy class and Professor Falk. I learned things about the planets that I did not know, but I did get neck pains from the chairs," Valley student Edwardo Martinez said.

The proceeds from the shows go to buy new astronomy equipment for the school. The Rotary Club granted $10,000 to Valley College to replace telescopes and tripods damaged during the Northridge earthquake.

The biggest astronomical event that occurs this Spring is Hale-Bopp, a newly found comet discovered by scientists Hale and Bopp. The Hale-Bopp comet is what is known as a great comet. Great comets arrive every 15 years, on an average, but we have not seen one since Halley's in 1976.

The Hale-Bopp Comet passes about 100 million miles from Earth. It can be seen from mid February through the beginning of April. The comet can even be seen in the city lights, but only as a fuzzy little ball.

Comets are composed of volatile material consisting of dirt, ice, carbon dioxide and other such gases. As the comet travels closer to the sun, the contents of the comet begin to melt and form a tail which increases in size.

"It represents old material. As the comet travels, we try to take spectroscopic analysis of it to see what's in it. This shows us what was present when the solar system was born," Falk said.

Planetarium shows are presented once a month. The next planetarium show will be "Women in Astronomy," Feb. 21.

Bob Mitchell, the Science and Sequence Manager for the Galileo project of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, will be giving a special lecture on the Galileo mission to jupiter and its satellites Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for this special presentation and it is open to the public.

The club also sponsors "star parties" which are open to the public. The star parties are trips to special sites nearby, similar to camping expeditions. The next star party will be at Charmlee Park in the Santa Monica Mountains. Those interested in participating may meet with the club at the planetarium Feb. 8 at 3:45 p.m. Students should bring their own telescopes or binoculars, but one or two school telescopes will be provided.

For more information, call 781-1200, ext. 335.

Laura Renolds contributed to this story.

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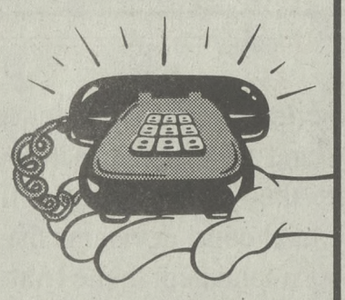

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THE HUMPERS · Still Our · Sweethearts

By JOYE GEERTSEN
ASST. ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Don't you wish that every new release that you look forward to hearing is as good, if not better, than the last? An album void of songs that all sound the same, without the needless eccentricities that seem to dull the luster of new CD's.

How thrilling would that be? Well, it's finally happened. The Humpers' second release on local Epitaph records, *Plastique Valentine*, is the product of a working chemistry and talent between band and producer, Sally Browder.

Singer/songwriter Scott Drake fortunately has not run out of things to say. With humorous insights and posthumous punk style, not to mention understandable vocals, The Humpers' sound is something of a hybrid of wide-eyed '50s rock meeting The Damned. Drake delivers on all 13 tracks with the ebullience and eloquence that he has long mastered.

Enigmatic guitarist Billy Burks looks to be a long-lost Ramone and plays his Les Paul like he invented, not imitated, the style made popular by Johnny Thunders.

Mitch Cartwright on bass and drummer Jimi Silveroli, the friendliest guy of the band, provide the needed crux that is adorned by guitars and vocals. The no-frills approach paves the way for Drake and lead guitarist Mark Lee to ham it up without excess or confusion.

No one hesitates from the first song through the last. Rhythm and lead guitars flow together resulting in a style that has been compared to the NY Dolls, or more recently, D-Generation, which is a compliment to the latter because there is no band that has The Humpers' sound.

Before going on the road, The Humpers auditioned five people and spoke with many others without successfully finding someone to replace their last lead guitarist.

"A lot of people were good, a lot were cool and a lot had flashy clothes, but none of them were right. I knew we would know when we found the right person." Drake said.

The right person came in the form of 28-year old Lee. On tour at Sioux City's Cattle Club, Lee's band opened for The Humpers.

The next night, Lee showed up at The Humpers' show knowing all of their songs and played with them.

That same night, he threw his guitar into the van and finished the tour as the newest, if not most enthusiastic, member of The Humpers. All this with no hint of the upcoming deal with Epitaph.

The Humpers' new release is a hybrid of wide-eyed '50s rock and posthumous punk. Photo Courtesy of Epitaph Records

Before being the first band signed to the label by Jeff Abarta, a few major record companies had contacted Drake, including Geffen and Sony. When MCA called Drake and asked if he had any CD's, he replied, "Yes, we have three CD's. If you want to hear it, go buy one at Tower." Apparently, they did not. Too bad for them.

About The Humpers' upcoming tour of Europe and Japan, The Humpers said they love being on the road. "Live music is what it is about for us," Drake said. That's a refreshing sentiment from a band and always a promise for a great show.

For the release of *Plastique Valentine*, The Humpers will be playing a free show at SpaceLand in Silverlake, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.

"Evita" : The Best New Sedative

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
FEATURE EDITOR

Madonna as Eva Peron sings to her peasants. Photo courtesy of Cinergi Pictures

The best cure for insomnia has finally been discovered!

Watching Madonna's latest attempt at making a decent movie can help even the worst insomnia sufferers get a peaceful .rest, that is, after their stomach stops churning.

"Evita," starring Madonna, Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce was made out to be an honor for the Argentinean idol. Instead, it managed to be a mockery of her life. Argentina must be pissed.

One word can describe this film, horrendous.

The film opens up with a group of moviegoers discovering the terrible news that Eva Peron died.

Then Banderas breaks out into a song introducing the viewer to a young Evita. Halfway through the film, I figure out that he is the narrator.

Basically, the film tells that Argentina loved Evita. Except, it failed to clearly explain why. The only thing she did was sleep her way to the top and make self gratifying speeches about how she shares the Argentinean peasants' pain. What pain? She lived off the money of rich men.

Having to watch an incredibly boring movie was not bad enough. No. The worst part was sitting for over two hours having to listen to ridiculous music and lyrics. It was pure hell. The type of music didn't even match the time period. The music would not have been as bad if it was understandable. These actors obviously did not take lessons in enunciation. Half the time, I was trying to decipher what they were saying. Over and over, I asked myself , "What did I do to deserve this torture?"

The biggest question I have, is what were the Golden Globe judges thinking when they gave Madonna the honor of best actress?

I've seen Kathy Ireland do better acting. Madonna overacted each scene. Eventually, it dragged out the little emotion the film had.

She couldn't even bring a tear out of my eye, even when she was dying. In some of the most emotional parts of the movie I had to keep myself from bursting out laughing. The acting was that bad.

Although, Banderas gave one of his better performances, and he can actually sing. He even managed to give the film moments of intended humor.

I entered the theater with an open mind. I figured it couldn't be that bad. I was, oh, so wrong. I could barely keep my eyes open. I nodded off at least three times and yawned at least ten times. I'm not sure, I lost count.

When the film finally ended, as I ran out the door, I thought to myself, "Maybe the reason this film won a Golden Globe for best picture was because the judges were all insomniacs grateful for a decent nights sleep."

I recommend this film to anyone who is suffering from a serious lack of sleep and has tried every remedy under the sun; or, to masochists.

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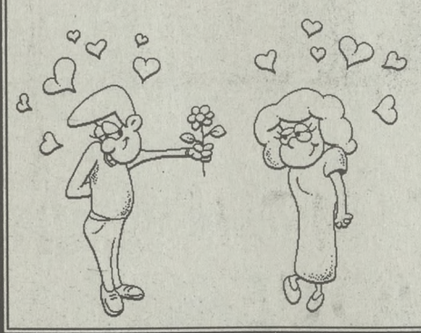

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SPORTS

Monarchs Edge Out Corsairs

By BEN ALTER
SPORTS EDITOR

The Valley College men's basketball game against Santa Monica College on Jan. 22 started off with Valley on top. The Monarchs started out the first half of the game playing tough defense and good offense.

Valley's defense pressured Santa Monica's players from the time the ball came into play. They forced Santa Monica to commit a lot of turnovers and took their offense out of the game. Valley went into half-time with a comfortable lead.

The second half started with Santa Monica coming on strong. They were able to break down the Valley full court press, causing Valley to abandon their defensive strategy.

The Valley offense slowed down, allowing Santa Monica to come within three points of the Monarchs with just two minutes left in the game.

That's when Valley's defense started moving again. The Monarch's pulled the game out with a 78-74 victory.

It took a lot of teamwork to win this game, but like in most team sports there were a few heroes. The first of those heroes was Benny Hoang, a 5'6" sophomore point guard. Hoang finished a consistent game with 10 points, five steals and seven assists. Freshman wing Tyreese Basey led the team in points with 19 and had five rebounds to go along with them.

Gianandrea Marcaccini, another freshman wing, added 18 points and eight rebounds to the game. Carlton Frasier, a sophomore forward, joined the group with a respectable six points and eight rebounds. Freshman post Leon Brisport added 10 points and five rebounds.

Determination, teamwork and this combination of players under the tutelage of Head Coach Doug Michelson have given the Monarchs a winning record up to this point in the season..

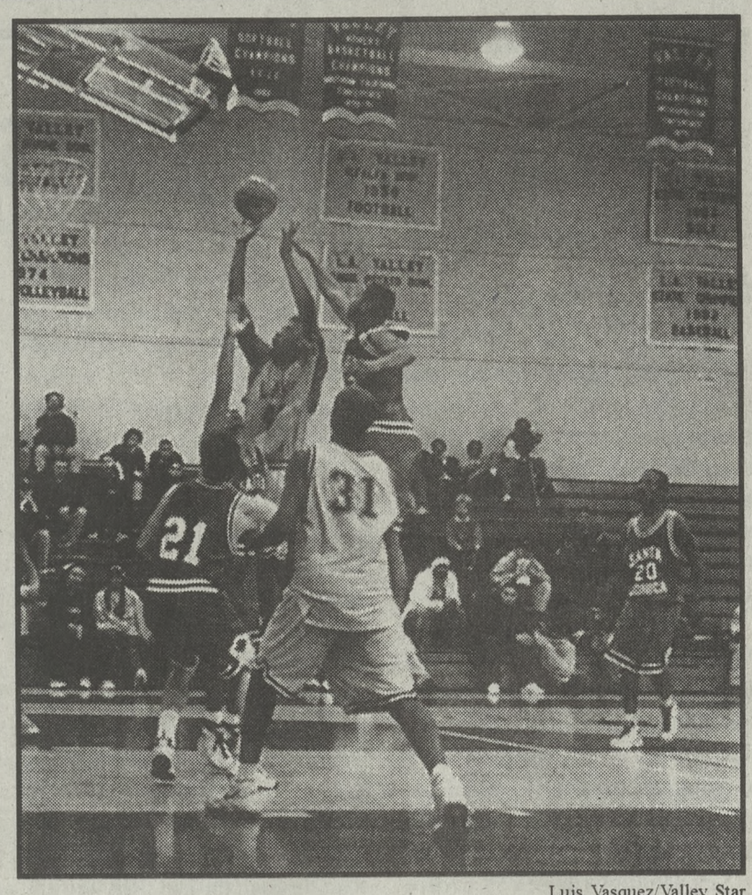
The Monarchs have three more home games this season, Feb. 12, 19 and 28.

Athlete of the Month

Pierre Elize

Sport: Basketball
Postition: Wing
Grade Level: Freshman
High School: Daniel Murphy
Achievements: M.V.P. of LasVegas Invitational Tournament, which Valley Won. Averages 13.7 points per game to lead the team in scoring, and is second on the team in rebounding with 5.2 rebounds per game.

Elize was named Athlete of the Month for December.



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star
Leon Brisport fights for a rebound against Santa Monica.

Lady Monarchs Show True Grit in Back to Back Games

By BEN ALTER
SPORTS EDITOR

A weekend battle for the Lady Monarch basketball team started off with a 109-54 pummel against Pierce College on Jan. 17.

The Valley team was led by the brilliant scoring efforts of sophomore guards Shawanda Hotchkiss and Lisa Nielsen, who finished with 22 and 28 points respectively.

Points weren't the only place their brilliance could be seen. Nielsen finished the game with 13 rebounds and five steals to go along with her point total. Hotchkiss added seven rebounds, six assists and three steals, giving her a well-rounded game.

Other great performances include freshman center Tanya McLaughlin who scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Freshman guard Nyoki McKieth added five steals.

The second game of the weekend occurred the next night as the Lady Monarchs lost a tough battle to Cuesta with a final score of 65-57.

That game showed a lot of defensive brilliance as both teams made 19 two-pointers and three three-pointers. Cuesta made 18 free throws to Valley's 10.

The stand-out players of this game were Hotchkiss, again, and sophomore guard Jacque Tennies. Hotchkiss put 21 points on the board and Tennies added 20 rebounds.

For the season, the Lady Monarchs were 14-8 as of Jan. 19. Some of the ladies have made themselves known in a specific category, except for Hotchkiss, who leads the team in two categories.

As of Jan. 19, Hotchkiss is leading the team in points per game, averaging 20.7 points a game. She leads the team in steals along with sophomore Kristen Kiley-Boyton, both averaging 2.3 steals per game.

When it comes to rebounds, Tennies is the chairwoman of the boards. She leads the team this season with an average of 10.7 rebounds per game.

Sophomore Virgie Juarez shows the essence of team play by giving the ball to teammates 160 times, making her season average 7.2 assists per game.

As a team, the Lady Monarchs have averaged 76 points, 48.8 rebounds, 22.6 assists and 14.8 steals per game. Their opponents have averaged 65.6 points, 43 rebounds, 16.7 assists and 10.7 steals per game.

The Lady Monarchs' next home game will be against West L.A. on Feb. 12.

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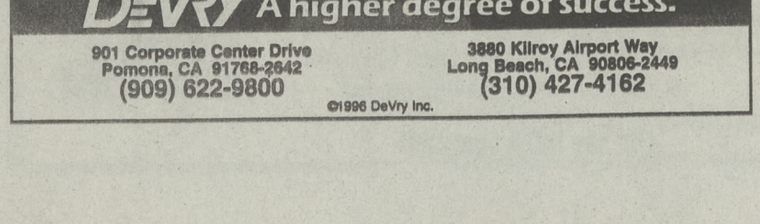

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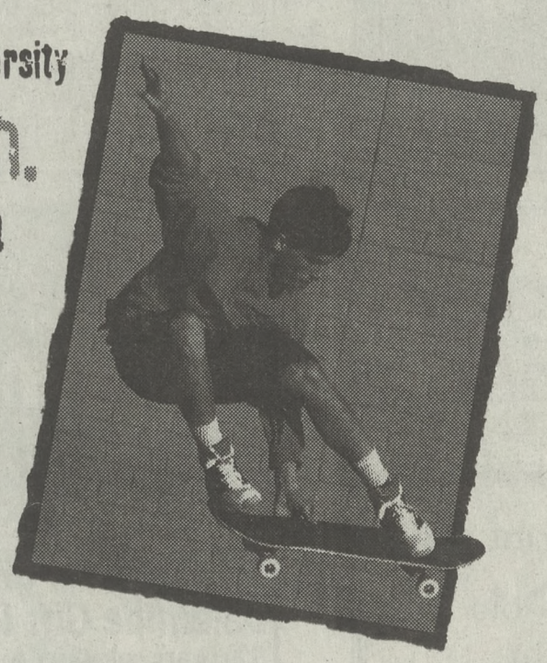

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